

The Washington Moose Observation Survey is a volunteer “citizen–science” survey that is taking advantage of mobile phones. Using your smart phone system, Washington hunters and other recreationists can contribute to wildlife management by helping to collect data. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is particularly interested in the participation of white–tailed deer hunters and turkey hunters in our Region 1 (Colville and Spokane) areas. Cross–country skiers, snow–shoers, and other frequently outdoors who might observe moose are also encouraged to participate. This Survey is designed to collect long–term data on the population status and trends of moose populations throughout northeastern Washington. The program is based on a pilot project that was initiated in 2012 by Dr. Mark Boyce at the University of Alberta.



The Moose Observation Survey is designed to collect long-term data on the population status and trends of moose in Washington, particularly the northeastern portion of the state, north of Spokane. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been monitoring moose annually using helicopter surveys, and is currently in the process of developing an approximate population estimate for the north-eastern portion of the state. However, ongoing population monitoring is expensive and limited by weather conditions and other logistic challenges. Thus, having a broad geographic coverage of moose observations, collected in a

standardized and repeated way by the public, can be very helpful as we track long-term changes. WDFW has adapted the system begun in Alberta, Canada, (originally initiated in 2012 by [Dr. Mark Boyce](#), and coordinated at the Department of Biological Sciences University of Alberta), and the first season of operation will be autumn/winter 2015.

The Moose Observation Survey is a volunteer “citizen-science” survey that is taking advantage of mobile phones. Using your smart phone system, you can contribute to wildlife management by collecting data. Many Washingtonians own smart phones, so with your contribution we can obtain enough data from each Game Management Unit (GMU) to develop a useful index of abundance of moose, as well as population structure (bulls, cows, calves) throughout the eastern Washington. To participate, all that is needed (besides a smart phone), is a [Wild ID](#) number (Washington DFW’s database of hunters), and to know which Washington [GMU](#) you are in when afield. (Even if you don’t have a WildID number, you can participate by entering any 11-digit number).

Hunters recognize that accurate reporting is essential. However, because hunters of species *other* than moose in northeastern Washington (particularly white-tailed deer and turkeys) also encounter moose (and don’t stop observing once having seen a moose), we are particularly interested in having these “non-moose” hunters participate. As well, non-hunters are welcome to contribute to the best-possible management and conservation of Washington’s moose. Your moose sighting reports will, afford wildlife managers with the best possible information for making management decisions.

Washington hunters assist already by reporting their hunting activity on WDFW’s web-based [harvest reporting system](#). However, recording moose sightings on the same day is critical to accurate reporting because it is easy to forget what one saw in the past; this phone app is programed to gently remind you to enter your data at designated time. The data are stored on the smart phone and when your cell phone communication is established, the recorded moose observations are instantly transferred to database maintained at WDFW’s Olympia headquarters. No personal data is required or stored.

With the data collected through this project, wildlife managers will be able to monitor moose populations each year and they will be able to detect the consequences of changes in harvest regulations, predation, winter tick outbreaks, or other unexpected causes of population change.

About the Applications

The application is available for the Android and iPhone.

The iPhone Application can be downloaded from the [Apple store](#) for free.

The Android Application can be downloaded from [Google Play](#) for free.

iPhone Instructions

There are a few configurations you will need to complete first:

1. Select Application



2. Agree to the terms of use

LICENSE AGREEMENT

I allow the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to collect and store my WildID number and the Game Management Unit (GMU) I hunted for data verification purposes only. I do not allow the sale, trade, or otherwise transfer to any outside parties my WildID or Game Management Unit (GMU) hunted other than to staff of WDFW. I agree that all collected data associated with my WildID and GMU will be confirmed by WDFW databases by staff at WDFW.


Your acceptance is required to continue and activate application. By clicking the agree button, you signify that you have read and consent to the terms above.

This phone application was originally designed by the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta (Canada) under the supervision of Dr. Mark Boyce and adapted for use in the state of Washington by WDFW.

3. Enter the GMU you will be reporting on for that day.

Please be accurate when entering these numbers as they are not checked at time of entry. They are verified at the end of the hunting season and data associated with an unverifiable GMU will be deleted.

The Application is now activated and it will remind you at 8:00 PM to enter your sightings for the day.

A stylized graphic of a moose's head and antlers in yellow and orange, positioned behind the form fields.

Enter how many of each
kind of moose you saw today,

Bulls

Cows

Calves

Unidentified

Hours afield
hunting

Submit

Android Instructions

1. Select Application



View the License Agreement

LICENSE AGREEMENT

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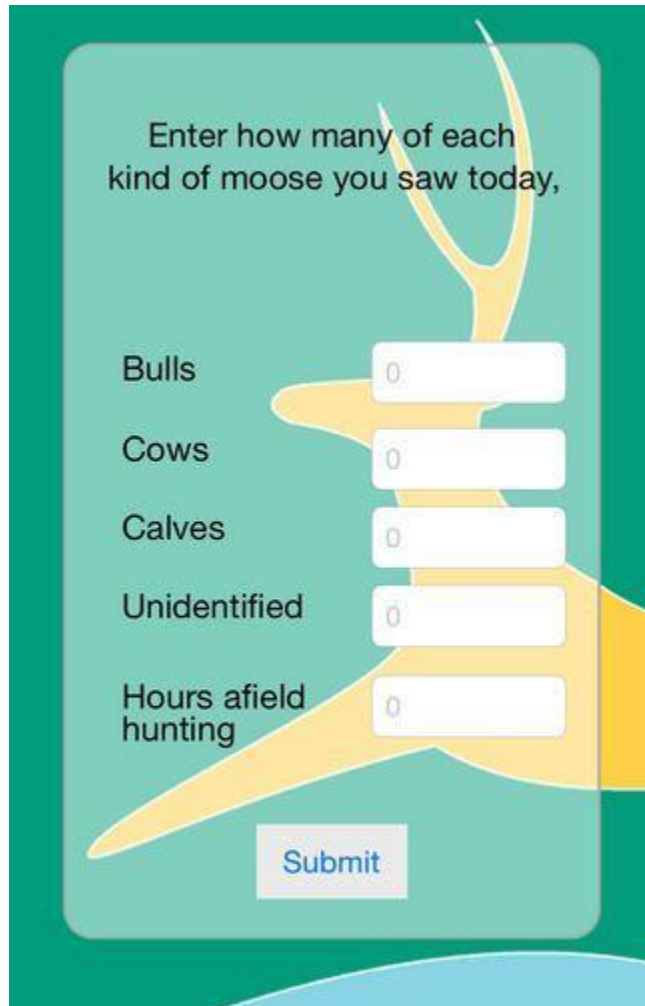
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A digital form for reporting moose sightings. The form has a teal background with a stylized yellow moose silhouette. The text 'Enter how many of each kind of moose you saw today,' is at the top. Below are five input fields: 'Bulls', 'Cows', 'Calves', 'Unidentified', and 'Hours afield hunting'. Each field has a '0' in a small box and a larger empty box for the number. A 'Submit' button is at the bottom.

Enter how many of each
kind of moose you saw today,

Bulls

Cows

Calves

Unidentified

Hours afield
hunting

Submit